

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
STRATEGIC PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE**

Planning Session II

March 29, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

IAC Office, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Ron Stratten, Facilitator

Notes

Members present: Brian Blackford, John Cain, Tod Minnich, Tetia Lee, Lee Marks, Sandi Clark, Terry Whitt Bailey, Jon Kay, Glen Kwok, Susan Zurbuchen, Dick Stifel, Libby Chiu, Jeanne Mirro, Wug Laku, Ron Stratten

Members absent: Jon Ford, Karen Ellerbrook

IAC Staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Laura Frank, Dennis Hardin

IAC Committee on the Future Chair Dick Stifel opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then turned the meeting over to Facilitator Ron Stratten. Mr. Stratten thanked everyone for their participation in the two planning sessions, and announced that this would be his last meeting with the group, due to a family move out of state in the coming weeks. Susan Zurbuchen of the Butler University faculty will take his place as facilitator for future meetings. The format of this meeting will be a SWOT analysis – listing and examining the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats as the Arts Commission moves forward over the next several years.

**Strengths (What do we do well?)** Comments included:

- Provide arts education opportunities for youth.
- Regional Arts Partners can and do reach all corners of the state.
- Indiana has a strong international arts reputation, thanks to its institutions and universities.
- There is a broad definition of the arts in Indiana
- Advocacy is a strength.
- People all over the state are doing arts for the sheer joy of it, regardless of funding.
- There are highly collaborative arts communities.
- Indiana is making a concerted effort to provide arts employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- It is a nice surprise, even a secret, that there is so much going on in the arts.
- Volunteerism is strong.
- The infrastructure of advocacy is strong.
- Those who live in Indiana love Indiana, and this is an asset – traditional arts thrive, and there is hometown and community pride.
- There is a lot going on at the grassroots level.

- The mood for the arts at the present time is intense, partly due to the economy.
- Indiana has a great art history.
- Bluegrass music is very popular.
- There are communities where the arts are a key economic strategy.
- The Governor's Arts Awards showcase the entire state.
- Creative Renewal Program
- Major private funders are involved in the arts.
- There is a great combination of strong organizations and community organizations; viable partnerships exist

**Weaknesses.** Comments included:

- State funding for the arts is at an all-time low.
- Historical roots play into stereotypes.
- Within the arts community there is prejudice and separation between the haves and have-nots.
- The proliferation of not-for-profit organizations breeds homogenization; there is a lot of duplication of effort.
- Not enough new people at the table.
- Not enough communication among smaller organizations.
- State-wide data-gathering and information-sharing is not sufficient.
- We need to tell our story better; we need to engage the next generation to get involved.
- We're having trouble even keeping our next generation – the brain drain.
- In many cases, those who say they want arts opportunities do not “show up” for them.
- We need to broaden the definition of what is art; it needs to be more inclusive.
- The need for arts is competing with the need for science and math.
- Government officials do not believe in the importance of the arts.
- We need more fiscal conservatives to embrace the arts.
- We need to have believable numbers (data)
- We need a more effective strategy, a more comprehensive plan.
- We are not taking advantage of the explosion in new media.
- Indiana is in a state of economic decline

**Opportunities.** Comments included

- There is an opportunity to re-invent the economy.
- The fact that the state is in economic decline is a powerful message.
- We need re-articulation in order to find common obvious areas of concern.
- IAC has an opportunity to re-invent itself.
- The arts community has to figure out what the “bridge” looks like.
- Expand transformation
- Look at the success of sports planning in Indiana.
- The Indiana Bicentennial is 2016 is a great opportunity for the arts.
- The Super Bowl coming to Indianapolis in 2012 is an opportunity.

**Threats.** Comments included:

- The perception that the arts are not so great.
- Government officials are antagonistic towards arts funding.
- There is a perception that the arts are not for everyone – sense of elitism.
- As public funding for the arts remains low over time, expectations will be lower.
- Some people have a fear of international things.
- The arts can be a political football.

Mr. Stratten thanked everyone again for their participation. Mr. Stifel echoed the sentiment. Mr. Ricci remarked that the next step is to hold a series of public meeting around the state to gather more input. This committee will meet again in late summer or early fall 2010.

Meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.